MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

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FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 3, 2017 / 2018

PEN0065 – ACADEMIC ENGLISH

(All Groups)

31 MAY 2018
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This question paper consists of **SIX** printed pages.
2. Answer **ALL** questions in **Sections A, B** and **C.**
3. Please write all your answers in the Answer Booklet provided.

SECTION A: READING AND VOCABULARY [25 MARKS]

Instructions: Read the two reading texts, and answer the questions in complete sentences.

Text 1 (13 marks)

The Painful Search for China's Missing Children Slowly Gains Momentum

1 It was around noon one October day 12 years ago, and 5-year-old Ying was waiting for her mother to collect her from school. However, her mother was a few minutes late, so Ying decided to start walking home herself. She did not get far. Just 100 yards from the school gates, the young girl was grabbed by strangers and bundled into a taxi. Ying was one of hundreds of thousands of children in China thought to have gone missing over the past four decades, a problem that the country is slowly beginning to wake up to, thanks to public pressure expressed through the Internet and social media.

2 There are no reliable figures for how many children go missing in China every year, with academics estimating it could be anywhere between 20,000 and 200,000. The roots of the problem lie in traditional Chinese beliefs, in uneasy combination with a corrupt authoritarian state. In villages, a preference for large families, and especially for sons, created the demand for these children: Gangs in league with the police satisfied the demand. An old custom, where people with many children could donate one to childless relatives, gave convenient cover to the industry, while rising incomes gave it financial fuel.

3 Ying was taken to the home of a woman who trafficked in children, where she was kept along with half a dozen other children. "I was beaten and half-starved," she recalled. Once, at the age of 7, she escaped and ran to the police, who simply dismissed her as a "mischievous" girl. It was a huge blow to her morale, leaving her feeling lost and alone.

4 Her parents, meanwhile, were trapped in their own nightmare. In unbearable pain, Ying's father, Zhu went to the police, who said they could not register a case until 24 hours had passed. Even then they were not interested, two stations passing the buck to each other, unwilling to take on a case that would likely remain unsolved. In rising panic, he began searching from door-to-door. There was still no trace of his little girl anywhere. Zhu combed China, travelled hundreds of thousands of miles to spread his daughter's photographs. He was detained by police and chased out of towns, *harried by fraudsters trying to cash in on his misfortune*, but still he kept going.

5 The Ministry of Public Security says academics exaggerate the scale of the problem, but a campaign that ran from 2009 to 2012 brought in more than 35,000 missing children and busted 9,000 trafficking gangs, state media reported. On the other hand, in the United States, according to the FBI, about 465,000 children were reported missing in 2016. However, one U.S. Justice Department study found that just 115 in an average year are "stranger abduction" cases, in which the child was taken by an unknown person. Although definitions vary from country to country, a large number of "missing" children around the world are usually involved in custody fights between parents. Nevertheless, China appears *unusual* in facing child abduction and trafficking on such a massive scale.

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6 Like Zhu, many frantic parents who have been searching for their children met official resistance everywhere they turned. To the authorities, they were a nuisance, a threat to "social stability" by gathering crowds to search and complain. Thus, as it often happens in China, these *victims of injustice* become suspects, threats to the state if they dare to protest that injustice. In addition, Zhu said, "Local police will never register cases until they are solved. Cases of missing children need to be covered up, or they will reflect badly on the performance of the police". The police are also complicit in covering up for families who buy children, he says, often giving them fabricated registration papers. After all, no one appears in a Chinese village without the police knowing straight away.

7 Yet attitudes are gradually changing. Since its inception in 2007, a website called "Baby Come Home" has registered 36,741 sets of parents who have lost children and 30,370 children searching for their parents. It says it has helped 1,963 families reunite. The central government has begun building a DNA database to help match parents and children, and it launched a Web-based emergency alert system.

8 Zhu's daughter, Ying kept the memory of her parents alive, and at the age of 15, she managed to get hold of a smartphone. Her first move was to go online and search for her family. The only thing she could remember was one word: "Dabaiyang." She went to an online forum and asked if anyone knew that word. In a matter of minutes, she had an answer; it was a suburb of Xi'an, and she was chatting online with a woman, who, incredibly, had heard of her case and knew where to find Zhu's contact details.

Adapted from Daniel, S. & Zhang, C. (2017). The painful search for China's missing children slowly gains momentum. Retrieved from https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/the-painful-search-for-chinas-missing-children-slowly-gains-momentum/2017/08/13/a0ce1ed8-51b4-11e7-a973-3dae94ed3eb7_story.html?utm_term=.25f757678e18

a) State True or False for the following statement:
The high number of missing children is a recent problem that plagues China. (1 mark)

b) What is the main idea of the second paragraph? (1 mark)

c) Provide a word from paragraph 3 that is synonymous with "confidence". (1 mark)

d) Why were the police unconcerned when Ying's father wanted to report the case? (1 mark)

e) What does the phrase "*harried by fraudsters trying to cash in on his misfortune*" (lines 28-29) imply? (1 mark)

f) Why is China's missing children phenomenon described as "*unusual*" in line 38? (2 marks)

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g) How are the parents of these missing children "*victims of injustice*" in line 43? (4 marks)

h) Do you think the situation of the missing children in China will improve? Provide evidence to support your answer. (2 marks)

Text 2 (12 marks)

Are Millennials Really That Different from Other Generations?

1 Roughly once a week, I am asked, "Are millennials really that different from other generations?" Millennials, individuals who are now between 18 to 35 years old, were born and raised with different world events, different economic factors and a different culture. These factors helped to mold us as a population.

2 Where baby boomers are loyal to their company and Generation X are more loyal to their careers, millennials' loyalty lies with their community. We see work as a calling instead of a job. Millennials show up looking to make an impact, be part of a team and do meaningful work; work that makes a difference in the world. Millennials drive companies to challenge the *status quo,* for instance the long working hours and the current procedures and practices in the workplace.

3 Over the last 40 years, as technology has enabled us to automate basic tasks, the type of work we have done has changed. We are no longer working on assembly lines in factories, making one widget repeatedly. We have moved into the knowledge economy, where employees come up with creative solutions to complex problems. It is no longer sufficient to simply know the task that needs completing. As a knowledge worker, we need to see the bigger picture, the purpose of our work and the problem it is solving.

4 Millennials have grown up in an on-demand society with pretty much everything at our fingertips. Take a typical day in the life of a millennial, Katy. Katy realises she is out of milk, eggs and mouthwash, so she logs into Amazon.com, and by the time she is home, there is a delivery at her door. She orders her ride to work. While at work, Katy toggles between her work email, text messages and sees what everyone has been up to on Facebook and LinkedIn. At home, she orders dinner from her phone and gets it just in time to sit on her couch and choose from thousands of titles to binge watch for the night.

5 We live in a world where virtually anything can be taken care of in a matter of minutes, right from a device that is the size of our palm. The impact on our habits and society is noticeable. Our *need for instant gratification is at an all-time high.* If we want something, we no longer understand what it means to wait. It also plays a role in ballooning our expectations.

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6 Moreover, our social network has become, not an authentic place to connect with friends; instead, it has become a place to promote the best version of ourselves, whether true or not, to the world. It is now easier than ever to see what everyone in our social network is doing, where your friend just travelled for vacation and which friend just got a new job, who has been promoted and whose company just raised a bunch of money. In this world, the grass is always greener on the other side; it makes you examine your life and how it compares to the Photoshopped versions your network promotes on their feeds.

7 Our increased need for instant gratification, coupled with increased options and visibility to others' success, drives millennials to seek success, contribution and personal growth at a more rapid rate than other previous generations. Technology *has accelerated the millennial timeline*. Rob, like many teenagers in Generation X, went to high school with the goal, as determined by his family, teachers and our society, to go to a good college. Once he accomplished this, the societal expectations were to get a good job. Twenty years passed, and one day, Rob woke up asking himself, what am I doing? Why am I here on this earth? What is my purpose? Rob hit his mid-life crisis, a point in his life where he re-examined his goals and ambitions because for the very first time in his life, there was no one else to tell him what his goals should be. Now, he has got to figure them out on his own. However, millennials are starting to ask these very same questions two-to-three years into their working lives. The mid-life crisis has been moved up by 20 years and has become a quarter-life crisis.

8 When people ask me, "Are millennials really that different?" I say yes, we are.

Adapted from Levy, A. (2017). Are millennials really that different from other generations? Retrieved from https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbescoachescouncil/2017/07/26/are-millennials-really-that-different-from-other-generations/#28ac74676d46

a) Define the term "*status quo*" (line 9). (1 mark)

b) What is the main idea of the third paragraph? (1 mark)

c) Why did the author say that the millennials' "*need for instant gratification is at an all-time high*" (line 28)? (3 marks)

d) The author seems cynical or distrustful of the way the millennials use social media. Provide evidence to support this tone. (2 marks)

e) How has technology "*accelerated the millennial timeline*" (lines 42)? (4 marks)

f) What is the author's purpose of writing this text? (1 mark)

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SECTION B: GRAMMAR [10 MARKS]

Question 1: Transitions (5 marks)
Instructions: The following extract contains 5 errors on transitions. Identify these errors and correct them as shown in the example.

Example:

No	Line No	Error	Correction
0	1	...given up. Before 148 rejections from investors...	...given up. After 148 rejections from investors...

A different type of entrepreneur might have given up. **Before** 148 rejections from investors, no one would have faulted her for throwing in the towel. However, if there's one thing Kathryn Minshew values, it is perseverance. Hence, when one approach does not work, she is ready to try another. Kathryn is the CEO of The Muse, a job-search site. Currently, she has raised nearly $30 million. Consequently, the site had a rocky start, getting one "no" after another from her potential investors.

Kathryn found that two strategies in particular helped her. Firstly, she would give the interested investors a specific time period to meet up. Before that, Kathryn said, she would literally beg for an appointment time with the investors, but they would always reschedule the meetings last minute. Similarly, she had to make many unexpected adjustments which really stressed her out. Now, she would ask them to meet in a specific time frame, and if they said they were not available, she would respond with something like: "I need to get all of our first meetings done by X date. Let me know if you're going to be able to make it work, and if not, it is totally fine." Furthermore, Kathryn was really surprised as most of the investors would actually agree to change their schedules to fit in the meeting.

Secondly, she solicited candid feedback from her end users. This strategy allowed her to stay confident that her site was practical. "Although you tell someone you're the founder of a company and ask for their opinions, they are more likely to give you positive input as they do not want to hurt your feelings," Kathryn said. "If you tell them that you're a consultant, helping a company understand what it's doing well and what it's not, people are much more likely to give you totally unfiltered feedback." However, with the precious feedback she was getting from her target audience, Kathryn could identify the areas where her site could improve on.

Adapted from Lebowitz, S. (2017). A startup founder who was rejected 148 times before raising almost $30 million made 2 small changes to get investors excited. Retrieved from https://www.businessinsider.my/entrepreneur-kathryn-minshew-tricks-to-success-2018-3/

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Question 2: Modal Verbs (5 marks)
Instructions: Fill in each blank with a suitable modal verb.

Example: "If you really want to keep weight off, you **(0) must** be willing to make permanent lifestyle changes...

Do you have pounds to lose but do not have a weight loss plan? Our first intervention begins and ends with yourself. "If you really want to keep weight off, you **(0) must** be willing to make permanent lifestyle changes. There are simply no quick fixes," said Mascha Davis, the spokeswoman for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. "Otherwise, the weight loss is temporary, and you (1)_____ definitely gain it back when you go back to old habits."

Davis recommends looking at three areas of your lifestyle that (2)_____ require change: food, exercise and sleep. "I call it a trifecta approach, because these three things are essential to keeping weight loss sustainable," she said.

For example, in the diet category, you (3)_____ start eating more fibre-rich vegetables and aim to drink more water.

Next, being more physically active (4)_____ involve simply getting up every hour to move around if you have a desk job, taking the stairs instead of the elevator and parking your car farther from an entrance. Going to the gym regularly is helpful, but do not expect it to make up for those morning doughnuts. Generally speaking, the amount of exercise required to make up for diet damage is huge .

Since sleep impacts hunger and satiety hormones, getting enough sleep is another lifestyle factor that (5)_____ make or break your weight loss efforts. "Sleep is essential for weight loss," Davis said. "I have clients who are doing all these great things with their eating habits and going to the gym, but they do not realise that a lack of sleep is really wrecking their goals."

Adapted from Drayer, L. (2018). Weight loss interventions that work: Lifestyle changes. Retrieved from https://edition.cnn.com/2018/02/07/health/weight-loss-food-exercise-drayer/index.html

SECTION C: WRITING [25 MARKS]

Instructions: Write a process essay of **not less than 350** words based on the information given below.

Parents always have our best interests at heart, so it is common for them to try and guide us in many aspects of our lives. However, as we grow older, we feel that perhaps we could make more decisions ourselves and enjoy more freedom to do what we want. Describe steps that we can take to enjoy more freedom from our parents.

End of Paper